

# Customs News

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## A BRIGHT FUTURE

Commissioner Tong (third left) and the five recipients of Commissioner's Commendation Certificates.  
(From left) Acting Assistant Superintendent Chiu Yuk-hung, Senior Superintendent Tam Wai-lun, Commissioner Tong, Senior Superintendent Li Chung-leung, Acting Senior Superintendent David Fong, Acting Assistant Superintendent Tam Yat-keung.

### Message from Commissioner

**Our** Departmental motto “Commitment and Excellence” truly reflects Customs officers’ mission of guarding the gate to the HKSAR whilst assisting in the region’s socio-economic development.

The rapid development of Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years has added new meaning to our mission, bringing with it more assignments and more opportunities. A total of 664 additional posts will be created in the Customs Service during 2006-07 to cope with the increasing workload. This will come with the completion of new boundary control points and Customs clearance facilities, namely the Shenzhen Bay Control Point, the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line, the Asia Airfreight Terminal

2, the SkyPlaza and the enhancement of cargo clearance services at the Hong Kong International Airport. The Department has been tasked with more responsibilities and granted a net expansion amounting to 17% of our present strength.

Of 664 new positions, some 90% (592) are Customs Officers Grade posts, with 254 promotion posts including 234 and 20 respectively in the Senior Customs Officer and Chief Customs Officer ranks. The remaining (72) are additional posts in the Inspectorate and Superintendent ranks (as shown in the table on P.4). Customs officers face a bright future as the expansion of the Department will bring with it good advancement opportunities.



The coming on stream of the new control points was foreshadowed by the Message entitled “Talents and Professionalism” published two years ago (June 2004). In that Message, I observed that if Customs colleagues were able to help the community we served to gain greater prosperity, it is only because we had the right people who possessed the necessary expertise and the will to excel.

People remain the most important asset of ours. The success of a modernized Customs is founded upon people-oriented values. Our Department accords the highest priority to building up an intelligence-led Customs force through proactive training, sustained development and flexible deployment of talents. We aim to enhance the Department’s capability in both law enforcement and trade facilitation, thus securing an environment conducive to economic growth of the HKSAR alongside that of the Mainland’s.

A professional Customs force has matured under the Department’s “people-oriented” development strategy. This is reflected in the many remarkable performances of our officers operating collectively



*Commissioner Tong (second right) accompanied by Head of Ports and Maritime Command, Li Chun-fai (second left) and Senior Staff Officer (Service Administration) Tam Wai-lun (first right) inspecting sea patrol duties performed by Customs launch on April 18.*

or individually. To cite a few examples, I have recently met:

- **Assistant Superintendent Lo Wai-tong, Senior Inspector Fan Chi-kong and Inspector Li Kin-kei:** By employing distinctive financial investigation strategies and applying for the first time the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance on intellectual property rights related crimes, they successfully froze over HK\$60 million worth of crime assets in two large-scale anti-piracy operations mounted in 2004 and 2005.
- **Assistant Superintendent Szeto Ng Yee-wa, Inspector Tong Man-kin and Senior Customs Officer Lai Fu-cheung:** In handling the dutiable commodities permit application in 2004, they foiled a criminal syndicate’s attempt to smuggle 214 million sticks of cigarettes, valued at HK\$342.46 million into the Mainland. This prevented a loss of duty revenue of RMB72.78 million to the Central People’s Government.
- **Chief Customs Officer Ngan Yim-yuen:** A veteran investigator against drug trafficking as well as piracy and counterfeit syndicates, he has seized over the years more than 400 kg of narcotics and HK\$27.5 million worth of pirated and counterfeit goods. He was commended for his exemplary performance on eight occasions, and also awarded the Secretary for the Civil Service’s Commendation in 2004.



*Commissioner Tong (third right) accompanied by Head of Revenue and General Investigation Bureau, Ng Yan-kwong, (second right) inspecting the fuel checking on vehicles at Customs checkpoint on April 19.*



- **Senior Customs Officer Wong Ching-ngai:**  
He won his tenth commendation for seizing 2.7 kg of cocaine during the baggage examination conducted on a passenger at the airport in 2003. Previously, his distinguished contributions in anti-narcotics and anti-piracy investigations had led to the seizure of 87 kg of narcotics and HK\$1.2 million worth of pirated goods.
- **Senior Customs Officer Tam Wing-hung:**  
He received his eighth commendation after effecting a significant case of unmanifested cargo with total seizure value of HK\$30 million onboard two



*Commissioner Tong, Head of Ports and Maritime Command, Li Chun-fai (first right, front row) and Senior Staff Officer (Service Administration), Tam Wai-lun (first right, back row) engaging in ship rummaging duties with officers of the Ports and Maritime Command on April 18.*

outgoing river trading vessels in 2003. Before that, he had already been commended many times for eradicating numerous counterfeit syndicates.

- **Female Senior Customs Officer Yiu Yuen-man:**  
So far she has won nine commendations for seizing more than HK\$28 million worth of illicit cigarettes and smuggled goods, together with over 70 kg of dangerous drugs.

Also laudable are our many female colleagues who through intensive training had acquired a variety of professional skills:

- In 1966, **Lam Fung-lan** joined the Department (then the Preventive Service) to become the first Woman Revenue Sub-Inspector. For the next three decades she had inspired through her exemplary performance many female officers, who were to follow her footpath.



*(From left, front row) Staff Officer (Staff Relations) Tong Wai-man, Senior Staff Officer (Service Administration), Tam Wai-lun, Commissioner Tong, Head of Revenue and General Investigation Bureau, Ng Yan-kwong and Assistant Staff Officer (Service Administration) Lee Hon-man with female officers (from left, back row) CO Chau Kit, CO Wong Lai-lai, CO Woo Kit-sze, SCO Yiu yuen-man, CO Lok In-leng, CO Wong Lai-ching and CO Li Shuk-ling on April 19.*

- In 1997, **Wong Lai-lai** became the first female coxswain after obtaining the Grade I Coxswain Certificate and the Outboard Motor Certificate. Following her was **Chau Kit**, who was the first female diver of the Department after obtaining the Grade III Coxswain Certificate and completing the Department's diver training course. In 1999, **Wong Lai-ching** was the first female diver qualified for using breathing apparatus. These female officers diligently applied their skills in anti-smuggling and ship rummaging tasks.
- In 1999, **Customs officers Li Shuk-ling, Lok In-leng and Woo Kit-sze** became the first batch of female dog handlers upon their completion of the Drugs Dog Handlers Course. In 2003, **Lo Hoi-sze** attended the Proactive Drugs Detection Dog Course in the United Kingdom. Inspector **Lo** now applies the specialized skills she has acquired in leading the Customs Detector Dog Unit to perform anti-narcotics assignments.

Many other members of the Customs Force have also won open recognition. They include, inter alia, the 131 officers who received commendations in the most recent award ceremony held on April 21, 2006. Hitherto, 11 officers were also awarded with the Certificate of the Secretary for the Civil Service's Commendation Scheme; four officers awarded with the WCO Medal of Honour; and 59 officers awarded with the WCO Certificate of Merits.



Accompanied by Head of Airport Command, Chan Hon-kit (second right, front row), and Senior Staff Officer (Service Administration), Tam Wai-lun (first right, front row), Commissioner Tong (third right, front row) inspecting the search of an aircraft by Customs detector dog on April 19.



During the visit to the Training School on April 12, Commissioner Tong meeting with the new recruits, who were eager to ask him questions about development of the Department and other topics.

Many other colleagues are also distinguished by their remarkable performances. More important, all members of the Customs Force are acting in concert, each contributing his or her part. Together, and only together, will we be able to give meaning to the Department's motto "Commitment and Excellence". Together we are working towards a bright future.

Timothy Tong  
Commissioner

## Posts created for the disciplined grade in 2006-07

New control point facilities / services	No. of new posts	Duties
(1) Shenzhen Bay Control Point*	534	To provide passenger and cargo clearance services
(2) Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line	84	To provide passenger and cargo clearance services and lead drug detector dogs for drug detection
(3) Phase I of the Asia Airfreight Terminal 2*	22	To provide cargo clearance services
(4) SkyPlaza	9	To station at the Customs office at SkyPlaza and provide clearance services for airport staff
(5) Improving air cargo clearance services	15	To enhance cargo inspection at the airport and provide air-land intermodal transshipment clearance services
<b>Total</b>	<b>664</b> <b>(1 Superintendent, 3 Assistant Superintendents, 12 Senior Inspectors, 56 Inspectors, 20 Chief Customs Officers, 234 Senior Customs Officers and 338 Customs Officers)</b>	

\* The actual number of posts for the Shenzhen Bay Control Point and Asia Airfreight Terminal 2 is subject to adjustment in accordance with the provision approved by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau.



## Bust Colombia-Based Drug Trafficking Ring



*(From left) Director General of Shenzhen Customs District of PRC, Mr Zou Zhiwu; Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose S K Lee; U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong, Mr James B Cunningham; and Commissioner Tong, joining hands to celebrate the success of tripartite co-operation in smashing a Colombia-based cocaine trafficking ring.*

Hong Kong Customs, the Anti-Smuggling Bureau (ASB) of Shenzhen Customs and the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have smashed a Colombia-based cocaine trafficking syndicate.

A total of 142 kilograms of cocaine, with an estimated market value of HK\$105 million were seized. Nine persons were caught on the Mainland and Hong Kong. Those arrested included three Colombians, a Venezuelan, three Mainlanders and two local people.

At a ceremony hosted by Hong Kong Customs on May 9, 2006, the Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose S K Lee, spoke highly of the incessant effort of law enforcement officers in making such an encouraging achievement.

Mr Lee said that law enforcement agencies of different jurisdictions had to work closely to bring to justice international criminals engaged in transnational dangerous drugs activities.

“This spirit of co-operation is well demonstrated by Hong Kong Customs, ASB of Shenzhen Customs and the DEA through their close collaboration in exchanging intelligence and taking enforcement actions,” Mr Lee said.

“Hong Kong has been maintaining a close tie with its counterparts to adopt a multi-pronged approach to counter drug trafficking and drug abuse, including collecting and analysing intelligence, co-operating with the law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities, sharing experience and intelligence.”

Mr Lee hoped that riding on the success of such co-operation, the parties involved could further foster a closer alliance and enhance communication.

Commissioner Tong said that the success of this case had borne testimony to the trust and confidence among the three parties. The law enforcement officers showed total trust while exchanging intelligence of

utmost sensitive nature with one another, and showed great confidence in the enforcement competency of their counterparts.

Mr Tong held high regard for the discipline and professionalism displayed by the involved officers, including 50 officers from Hong Kong Customs. To avoid leakage of information, the officers kept the operation details in strict confidence to themselves for a long time.

At the ceremony, Mr Tong presented souvenirs to Acting Narcotics Attaché of the DEA, Mr Steven



*Cocaine seized in the Mainland.*



*(From left) Director General of Shenzhen Customs District of PRC, Mr Zou Zhiwu; Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose S K Lee; U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong, Mr James B Cunningham; and Commissioner Tong, cutting the roast pork in celebration of smashing the drugs syndicate.*

Bowler; and Deputy Director General of ASB of Shenzhen Customs, Mr Songmin.

The US Consul General in Hong Kong, Mr James B Cunningham, and Director General of Shenzhen Customs District of PRC, Mr Zou Zhiwu, also spoke on the occasion on the cooperation among the parties concerned that had led to the successful operation.

## Information Unit

### Brief facts of the case

The seizure was resulted from Hong Kong Customs' initiative in smashing the "1.11" mega drug trafficking case, an operation codenamed "ScentHound" with ASB and DEA earlier this year. It was aimed to detect the smuggling of cocaine into Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Based on DEA's intelligence, Hong Kong Customs officers tracked down a targeted person and put him under close surveillance. In the following operations, the law enforcement agencies investigated a Colombia-based cocaine trafficking syndicate active in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and took enforcement actions with the co-ordination of the General Administration of Customs.

In the afternoon of March 16, acting upon notification that ASB had seized a large quantity of cocaine from a storage centre in Zhongshan, Hong Kong Customs mounted a corresponding operation, arresting two Colombians, who were syndicate members, at two locations in Hong Kong.



# Secretary For Commerce, Industry And Technology

## Visits Customs

The Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, Mr Joseph W P Wong, was briefed by Commissioner Tong on the latest developments of the Department's strategy in promoting intellectual property rights (IPRs) and clamping down on copyright piracy during his visit to the Department on February 2, 2006.

During the visit, Mr Wong was pleased to note that Hong Kong Customs would roll out a scheme with the Intellectual Property Department in July to engage youngsters from 11 local youth uniform organisations in the fight against illegal file-sharing activities by means of BitTorrent (BT) software on the Internet.

Supporting the scheme, Mr Wong said Customs fought copyright piracy with vision and foresight. "Law enforcement is necessary and serves as a good deterrent, but only by involving the community would we be able to generate a more powerful and lasting effect," Mr Wong said.

He was briefed that through the initiative, Customs aimed to instill a strong sense of respect for IPRs in young people and enlist their support in cracking down on Internet piracy.

Under the scheme, some 200,000 members of 11 local youth uniform organisations will join to reduce the flow of BT seeds on the Internet.

The scheme is one of the many committed efforts of Hong Kong Customs to curb Internet piracy and could effectively expand the network for monitoring illegal distribution of infringing copyright works through local BT networks.

Mr Wong was told that the seed-uploading activities of films using BT network in Hong Kong had significantly diminished after Hong Kong Customs arrested a 38-year-old Internet user on January 12, 2005, in its first successful enforcement action against P2P type infringement activities.

During his visit, Mr Wong saw the operation of two Anti-Internet Piracy Teams. Since the Department started taking enforcement action against Internet piracy in 2000, these two teams had detected 53 cases



*The Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, Mr Joseph W P Wong (left), accompanied by Commissioner Tong (right), getting hands-on experience in detecting illegal file-sharing by means of BitTorrent (BT) software on the Internet.*

involving copyright infringement on the Internet, leading to the arrest of 87 people and the seizure of goods worth about \$3.7 million.

Noting the enforcement results, Mr Wong said that with the fast advance in information technology, Customs was facing ever greater challenges in its fight against Internet piracy. "I am confident that the Department will meet those challenges with professionalism and determination."

Commissioner Tong reassured Mr Wong that Hong Kong Customs would continue to stand firm on protecting IPRs.

Apart from rooting out piracy activities at the retail level, the Department takes proactive actions against production sources and storage areas of pirated discs.

As a result of relentless Customs crackdown, the number of pirated optical discs shops had further dropped from about 70 in 2004 to about 50 at the end of 2005.

**Information Unit**

# International Customs Day



*Led by the Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee (sixth left), Commissioner Tong (centre); Vice Minister of General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China and Director General of Guangdong Sub-Customs Administration, Mr Sun Songpu (fifth left); Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Frederick Ma (sixth right); Consuls General; and Customs representatives from Shenzhen and Macau drank a toast to the International Customs Day.*

The Department hosted a reception on January 26, 2006 to mark the 2006 International Customs Day. The theme for this year is “Safer World Trade through Security and Facilitation”.

The Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee, was the principal guest for the occasion.

More than 300 guests, including Vice Minister of General Administration of Customs of the People's

Republic of China and Director General of Guangdong Sub-Customs Administration, Mr Sun Songpu; Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Frederick Ma; Legislative Council Members; senior government officials; Consuls General; foreign Customs attachés; and Customs representatives from Shenzhen and Macau; and local dignitaries, attended the reception at the Customs and Excise Service Senior Officers' Mess.

**Information Unit**

## Commissioner Tong Speaks At Regional IPRs Workshop

Commissioner Tong made use of a “VCS” formula - “value, capacity and support” to introduce to an international audience Hong Kong Customs' enforcement experience in the protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in his opening remarks delivered at the IPRs workshop organized by US Consulate on May 15, 2006.

Representatives from various countries, including Indonesia, Japan, Mainland China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam attended the two-day workshop entitled “Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement: Creating A Stronger Deterrent”.

Explaining the formula, Mr Tong said that Hong Kong recognized IPRs protection as a definite “value”. It is inscribed in Hong Kong laws.

As to “capacity”, Hong Kong Customs has both the manpower and expertise to effectively enforce the law. Over 400 Customs officers have direct responsibilities over IPRs investigations, raids and seizures.

Mr Tong said that the Department's enforcement work had the unqualified “support” of Hong Kong policy-makers, the lawmakers and law administrators as well as the IP community. Through public education efforts by the Government and the IP industries and because of Customs' detection of some high profile cases, public support for IPRs was strengthened.

At the workshop, Head of Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau Y K Tam, spoke on Hong Kong Customs' actions against piracy. Participants were impressed by the remarkable enforcement result of Hong Kong Customs, particularly the deterrent effect after the successful prosecution of the BitTorrent case and several corporate piracy cases.

The workshop participants were invited to visit Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau on May 16, 2006 to enhance their understanding of Customs enforcement work.

**Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau**



# Customs Seizes 3.9 Tonnes Of Elephant Tusks

Customs officers seized 3.9 tonnes of unmanifested elephant tusks, worth about \$8 million, in Kwai Chung on May 9, 2006. This was the largest seizure of elephant tusks in the past 20 years.

While examining a 40-foot container at Kwai Chung Customhouse, Customs officers of Ports and Maritime Command found a concealed compartment at the innermost part of the container with the assistance of the Mobile X-ray Vehicle Scanning System. Inside the compartment were 3.9 tonnes of elephant tusks.

The 40-foot container originated from Douala, Cameroon was shipped to Hong Kong on May 3, 2006. It was declared to be carrying timber.



*Elephant tusks seized by Customs.*

The elephant tusks were confirmed by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) as scheduled endangered species listed under the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance.

Subsequent follow-up investigation by Customs showed that the container was intended for re-export to Macau. A 45-year-old man has been arrested.

In May 2003, Customs and AFCD were awarded the Secretary-General's Certificate of Commendation by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Geneva, Switzerland for their exemplary action to combat and forfeit 506 kilograms of illegal exports of ivory in October 2002.

Hong Kong was then the first recipient of such award.

**Information Unit**

## Fast Action Scheme Helps Exhibitors Protect

Hong Kong Customs will launch a scheme in October to help exhibitors protect intellectual property rights.

Through the "Fast Action Scheme", Hong Kong Customs aims to combat intellectual property rights infringement activities at large-scale exhibitions.

Companies intending to join exhibitions can provide information on brands and copyrights of their products on display to relating industry organisations in advance for verification and record-keeping. Once suspected intellectual property rights infringement activities occur, Customs officers can follow up promptly based on information collected by the industry in advance.

In the forthcoming exhibitions on electronic products this October, Hong Kong Customs will join hands with Hong Kong Brands Protection Alliance for a trial scheme. To inform members details of the scheme, the Alliance held a preparatory seminar on the "Fast Action Scheme" at a hotel in Kowloon on May 29, 2006.

## Intellectual Property Rights

Attending the seminar were Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Commerce and Industry), Miss Yvonne Choi; Commissioner Tong; Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Leung Koon-wah; and Assistant Executive Director of Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Mr Benjamin Chau.



*Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Commerce and Industry), Miss Yvonne Choi (second right); Commissioner Tong (second left); Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Leung Koon-wah (first left); and Assistant Executive Director of Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Mr Benjamin Chau (first right) attending a seminar on "Fast Action Scheme" organised by Hong Kong Brands Protection Alliance.*

**Information Unit**

# Customs Tightens Inspection At Sea, Land And Air Boundary



*Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports) Chow Kwong (third right) accompanied by Head of Control Points Command, Ko Chi-lok (second right) and Divisional Commander (Man Kam To), Sheung kam-biu (far right) inspecting Customs surveillance work against poultry smuggling in Man Kam To Control Point as Customs officers examine a lorry which carried live poultry.*

Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports) Chow Kwong inspected Customs surveillance work against poultry smuggling in Man Kam To Control Point on February 6, 2006.

Meeting with the media, Mr Chow said that Hong Kong Customs officers have stepped up surveillance and tightened inspection at sea, land and air boundary to deter smuggling activities of birds and poultry.

“Since the discovery of H5N1 in Hunan, Mainland in October last year, Hong Kong Customs has stepped up boundary protection enforcement actions. Frontline Customs officers have been put on high alert, and examination of suspicious imported cargoes and baggage has also been increased,” Mr Chow said.

“We have strengthened intelligence exchange with Mainland and other Customs authorities, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to crack down on smuggling activities of birds and poultry.

“Adopting risk management, our frontline officers have also stepped up checks on incoming travellers’ baggage. We urge members of the public not to bring birds or poultry into Hong Kong illegally, or they will face prosecution,” Mr Chow said.

Posters are displayed and TV-Announcement in the Public Interest is broadcast at the various control points to remind members of the public to take precautionary measures to guard against avian flu and not to bring birds or poultry into Hong Kong illegally.

Starting from October 28, 2005, the Control Points Command officers have launched a special operation codenamed “Operation Eagle” at all land boundary control points to suppress smuggling activities of birds and poultry.

During the period of the special operation from October 2005 to April 2006, Customs officers seized a total of 1,159 kg fresh poultry, 287 kg frozen poultry and 8 live birds and chickens. 395 persons were detained for investigation.



*Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports) Chow Kwong inspecting Customs surveillance work against poultry smuggling in Man Kam To Control Point. He looks on as a Customs officer inspects a passenger's baggage.*

The special operation continues.

In 2005, Hong Kong Customs seized a total of 254,943 kg illicit chicken and poultry meat, and 28 illicit live chicken and birds at the air, land and sea boundary.

**Information Unit**



# Hong Kong And Thai Customs Sign

## Co-operative Arrangement



*Commissioner Tong (left) and the Director-General of Thai Customs, Dr. Sathit Limpongpan (right), exchanging text after signing the Customs Co-operative Arrangement.*

Hong Kong Customs and the Customs Department of Thailand pledged to strengthen cooperation in fighting transnational customs crimes by signing a Customs Co-operative Arrangement on March 1, 2006.

Commissioner Tong and the Director-General of Thai Customs, Dr. Sathit Limpongpan, represented the respective Administrations in the signing ceremony.

“It is always the common wish of our two Administrations to elevate our friendly relationship to new platforms, and the Co-operative Arrangement is the embodiment of such wish,” Commissioner Tong said.

The attaché office of Thai Customs has been established in Hong Kong for over 40 years. Signing of the Co-operative

Arrangement marked the will and commitment of both Administrations to co-operate more closely in such areas as fighting against smuggling, drug trafficking and protecting intellectual property rights through arrangements of mutual administrative assistance.

So far, Hong Kong Customs has signed Customs Co-operative Arrangements with the General Customs Administration of the People’s Republic of China (the Mainland) and nine other overseas Customs Administrations, namely New Zealand Customs Department, Australian Customs Service, Her Majesty’s Customs and Excise of the United Kingdom, United States Customs Service, French Customs Administration, Belgian Customs and Excise Administration, Department of National Revenue of Canada, Central Board of Excise and Customs of the Republic of India and Korea Customs Service of the Republic of Korea .

### Information Unit

## Signing of MOU with Federal Express

The Hong Kong Customs and the Federal Express Pacific, Inc. (FedEx) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under the “Release Goods Before Duty Payment” (RGBDP) Scheme on November 30, 2005.

The RGBDP Scheme, a trade facilitation initiative taken by the Air Cargo Group of Airport Command, was launched to enhance air cargo clearance efficiency and co-operation with the industry. It aims to streamlining the procedure in settling duty payment and shortening the clearance time for cargo of dutiable goods.

Under the Scheme, the participating cargo operators will first furnish a security bond to the Customs. After receiving a general demand note on the duty amount issued by the Department , the cargo



*Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports) Chow Kwong (right), and Mr Luiz Tung, Managing Director of the Federal Express Pacific, Inc., Hong Kong & Macau signing the memorandum.*

operators can remove imported dutiable goods. The duty payment can be settled within two working days through various means, such as on the Internet.

The FedEx was the third company joining the RGBDP Scheme after the DHL Aviation (Hong Kong) Ltd. and the TNT Express Worldwide (HK) Ltd., which signed similar MOU with the Department in June 2004 when the scheme was first launched.

The Scheme was well-received by the participating companies.

### Airport Command

# Forum On Mainland And Hong Kong Intellectual Property Rights - Criminal Laws And Enforcement



*Commissioner Timothy Tong delivering opening speech at the Forum.*

With the full support of Hong Kong Customs and Beijing Normal University, the Hong Kong Brands Protection Alliance and Hong Kong Young Industrialists Council jointly organised a two-day forum on “Mainland and Hong Kong Intellectual Property Rights - Criminal Laws and Enforcement” in Hong Kong from February 22 to 23, 2006.

The Forum aimed to promote the importance of intellectual property rights (IPRs) protection and to enhance participants’ understanding of criminal laws, corporate IPRs offences, and judicial systems of Mainland and Hong Kong.

Talks on different IPRs topics were delivered by professors from the Beijing Normal University, Mainland legal experts, Government counsel and Customs officials. More than 120 participants attended the Forum, including trademarks owners, academics, representatives from Hong Kong law firms, IPR industry, Hong Kong Customs and other enforcement agencies. The talks were well received.

“Looking ahead, Customs and Excise Department will further promote respect for IPRs in the community, enhancing public understanding of the relevant laws safeguarding the interest of copyright owners.

“This Forum will enhance communication between Mainland and Hong Kong on IPRs protection, and strengthen co-operation between the Department and the concerned parties in combating piracy activities effectively,” Commissioner Tong said.

**Information Unit**

## Copyright Bureau Of Guangzhou Municipality Invites IPIB To Give Training Talks

On invitation from the Copyright Bureau of Guangzhou Municipality (CBG), Group Head (Intellectual Property Investigation (Administration and Support)) Sam Lui, Divisional Commander (Copyright Investigation) Jimmy Tam and Chief Customs Officer Chung Ming of Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau (IPIB) attended CBG’s training seminar as guest speakers on “Internet Piracy Enforcement” on January 16 and 17, 2006.

The seminar, attended by over 150 CBG enforcement officers, offered a platform for experience sharing on fighting Internet piracy and IT techniques in investigating cyber crimes. During the two-day seminar, IPIB officers delivered talks on “Enforcement of IPRs in Hong Kong” and “Copyright Piracy on the Internet and Computer Evidence”.

Over 150 participants from different anti-piracy enforcement districts of CBG in Guangzhou attended the seminar.

CBG thanked Hong Kong Customs for its participation in the seminar which served to enhance the officers’ knowledge of Internet piracy and foster co-operation between two enforcement agencies on intellectual property protection.

**Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau**



# Guards Of Honour Participate In New Year Parade

*A*s one of the sixteen organizations invited by Hong Kong Tourism Board to represent Hong Kong, Customs Guards of Honour participated in the Lunar New Year Parade on January 29, 2006. This was the sixth year the Department took part in the event. And for the first time, there were female Guards of Honour joining the Parade.

Before the Parade, Customs Guards of Honour were met by Commissioner Tong, Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Excise) Luke Au Yeung and Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development) Alan Li, who gave encouraging words to them. The unstinting support of the Department top management was a great booster to the morale of Guards of Honour.

Preceded by two rows of female Guards of Honour, the seventy-member team marched from Tamar Site in white beret and cap. With no drum beating to signal the pace, the Guards of Honour mounted the silent drill brilliantly. Marched in step and with pride, they earned warm applause and admiration from the public along the way.

The Parade was broadcast live locally and overseas, through which Customs professionalism and commitment to excellence, could be seen by a wide audience.



*Commissioner Tong (centre), Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Excise) Luke Au Yeung (second left) and Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development) Alan Li (second right), with Customs Guards of Honour.*

**Commandant of Guards of Honour**

## Customs Commended By Sony And Coach



*Head of Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau Y K Tam (fourth left) on behalf of Customs received a plaque from Mr M Isetani (fourth right), Director and Chief Financial Officer of Sony Corporation of Hong Kong Limited.*

*C*ustoms was presented plaques by Sony and Coach respectively in March in recognition of the Department's success in its enforcement against counterfeiting activities.

On March 20, 2006, Mr M Isetani, Director and Chief Financial Officer of Sony Corporation of Hong Kong Limited presented a plaque to the Department in appreciation of Customs efforts in combating counterfeit Sony memory sticks.

Ms Jill Sultan, Intellectual Property Manager of Coach, Inc., presented two plaques to Customs Ports and Maritime Command and Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau for their efforts in anti-counterfeiting enforcement.

Since 2005, Customs have seized over \$2.2 million worth of counterfeit Sony memory sticks, and 5,580 pieces of counterfeit Coach products with value of about a million.

**Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau**



*Head of Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau Y K Tam (right) on behalf of his Bureau received a plaque from Ms Jill Sultan, Intellectual Property Manager of Coach, Inc.*



*Head of Ports and Maritime Command C F Li (right) on behalf of his Bureau received a plaque from Ms Jill Sultan, Intellectual Property Manager of Coach, Inc.*

# Latest Development of the Customs Headquarters Building

The proposal to constructing a Customs Headquarters Building (CHB) was submitted to the Legislative Council Panel on Security for consideration on April 4, 2006. Headed by Commissioner Tong, a team consisting Customs Civil Secretary David Chow, Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation) Leung Koon-wah and Staff Officer (Headquarters Tower Project) Linda Tsui attended the meeting to seek Members' support to the proposal.



(From left, front row) Deputy Secretary for Security, Miss Cheung Siu Hing, Commissioner Tong, Customs Civil Secretary David Chow, Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation) Leung Koon-wah, and Staff Officer (Headquarters Tower Project) Linda Tsui (back row) attending the meeting of LegCo Panel on Security.

(Photo by courtesy of Sing Pao Daily News)

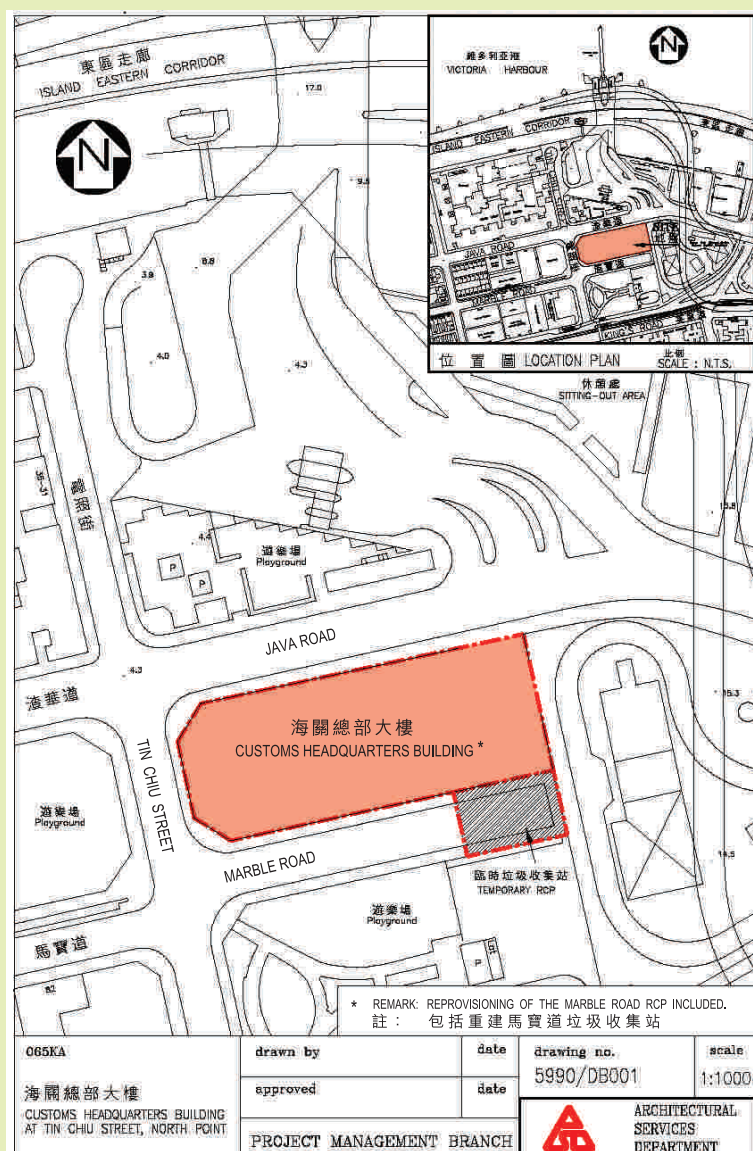
Discussion on the proposal at the Panel meeting lasted for only about an hour, but preparations behind it were overwhelmingly extensive. The Headquarters Tower Project Team prepared over a hundred pages of supplementary information and data for justifying the proposal and answering possible queries from LegCo Members.

The Commissioner pointed out at the Panel meeting that offices and facilities of the Department were currently scattered in 10 different locations of Hong Kong, which had adversely affected the operational efficiency. Moreover, the existing investigation offices of the Department were housed in government or commercial buildings with other users, which was undesirable in terms of security. LegCo Members in general recognized the Department's problems and supported the CHB proposal.

On May 10, 2006, the Public Works Subcommittee of Finance Committee of Legislative Council approved the CHB project and recommended its upgrading to Category A.

The Project Team will be in full gear to prepare for the meeting with Finance Committee, which will be held on June 9, 2006.

Subject to the Finance Committee's funding approval, tender exercise for the project will follow in July. We expect construction work to commence in early 2007 and the CHB to complete in late 2010.



Location Plan

Headquarters Tower Project Team





The Anti-Smuggling Bureau (ASB) of Shenzhen Customs and Hong Kong Customs Drug Investigation Bureau (CDIB) held a meeting on January 17, 2006 to review the successful joint operation codenamed 'BladeRun'.

In a joint operation codenamed 'BladeRun' last December, a cross-boundary drug syndicate was smashed. Following surveillance on the syndicate in the evening of December 16, 2005, ASB arrested a Hong Kong man and seized 2 kg ketamine in Shenzhen on December 17, 2005. Based on ASB's intelligence, CDIB officers subsequently seized 10 kg ketamine from a hotel in Hong Kong.

First row from left: Group Head (Drug Investigation) John Lee; Deputy Director General Song Min of ASB, Shenzhen Customs; Head of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau Ben Leung; Division Chief Li Zu Lian of ASB, Shenzhen Customs; Divisional Commander (Drug Investigation (Import and Export)) Leo Sin.



Customs Drug Investigation Bureau (CDIB) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of United States Department of Justice held an operational review meeting on February 16, 2006, during which the Head of CDIB Ben Leung (fourth left, first row) and his Superintendent grade officers met with the DEA officials led by the Narcotics Attaché, Mr Gene Goon (third left, front row).

To combat transnational drugs trafficking, both authorities agreed to enhance intelligence exchange between DEA and the Airport Investigation Division of CDIB.



Divisional Commander (Drug Investigation (Import and Export)) Leo Sin of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau attended the International Drug Enforcement Conference Far East Working Group Meeting from December 7 to 8, 2005. Held by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Manila Office, the meeting was aimed to strengthen co-operation among participating regions in combating syndicated transnational drug trafficking in the Far East.





Divisional Commander (Optical Disc Licence) of Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau Chu Kok-pang presented a HK Customs plaque to Mr F Lytal, Program Director of International Law Enforcement Academy - Bangkok (ILEA) (right) and Pol. Maj. Gen Mr Tamasak Wicharaya, ILEA Executive Director (left) after attending ILEA's Leadership Development Programme, which was held in Bangkok from December 12 to 16, 2006.

The course was organized by the US Department of Justice's Office of Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (OPDAT) and the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP).

Taught by US experienced law enforcement officials, the course was aimed to keep the participants abreast of the latest legislative development in US and to strengthen co-operation among participating regions.



Senior Inspectors of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau Kim Tak-wo (second right, front row) and Lai Lau-pak (second left, back row) attended the Unit Commander Course of International Law Enforcement Academy, held in Bangkok from January 16 to 17, 2006. Also joining the programme were representatives from Mainland and Macau.

Targeted at heads of anti-narcotics units around the globe, the course aimed to strengthen the skills of the sixty participants in risk management and operation planning. Apart from experience sharing by Australian Federal Police and Royal Malaysia Police on their successful investigations, lectures on narcotics enforcement principles and up-to-date trafficking trend by instructors from US Drug Enforcement Administration International Training Section were also arranged.



Head of Revenue and General Investigation Bureau (RGIB) Cheung Kwok-fu (fifth right) and Deputy Head Ng Yan-kwong (sixth left) pictured with their fellow officers after the visit to the ExxonMobil Tsing Yi (West Terminal) on February 9, 2006. Through intensive discussion with ExxonMobil representatives, the participants had a better understanding of the current situation of oil industry and the daily operation of the oil depot.





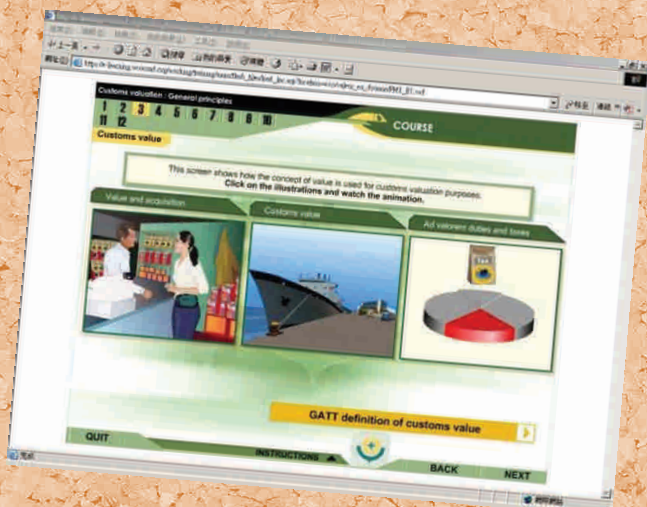
Twenty officers from Intelligence and Investigation Branch and Trade Controls Branch attended a five-day “Advanced Analytical Thinking Course” in two groups. Held from February 20 to March 3, 2006, the courses were taught by Ms Trisha Welch, an experienced Training Officer of New Zealand Customs Service (fourth right, front row).

The course aimed to encourage participants to adopt new perspectives in finding solutions, and make use of various methodologies, for instance creative thinking, use of hypothesis, visualisation and conceptual framework. Special emphasis was placed on the effectiveness of discussion in solving problems.

“It was hoped that the courses would sharpen participants’ problem-solving power so that they could make the best use of intelligence received for more accurate analysis,” Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation) Leung Koon-wah (middle, front row) said.



Trainee inspectors examine the X-ray image captured by the X-ray checkers after attending the X-ray Screening Course. Held on February 10 and 13, 2006, the course was organised by Office of Training and Development to enhance participants’ skills in X-ray interpretation. The training course has also been introduced to the Airport Command, Control Points Command, Ports and Maritime Command and Customs Drug Investigation Bureau.



Starting from March, 2006, officers of Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration (ODCA) attend the “Course on the World Trade Organisation Agreement on the Valuation of Goods” (Agreement). The course, offered by the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in its e-learning website free, is an 18-hour interactive multimedia training programme covering the terms of the Agreement and its implementation. To promote a culture for self-learning, officers are encouraged to complete the course in their own pace and at such time most convenient to them. Designated computer workstations are also set up in ODCA to facilitate their access to WCO e-learning website.



## News in Snapshot

Former Customs Commissioner Patrick John Williamson (fifth left, top photo) called on Acting Customs Commissioner Lawrence Wong (fifth right) and Customs management during his visit to Hong Kong on April 25, 2006. He was briefed about the latest development of the Department.

Mr Williamson served as Customs Commissioner from 1986 to 1990.



The Customs and Excise Service Senior Officers' Mess (CESSOM) Annual Dinner 2005 was successfully held at Aberdeen Marina Club on December 23, 2005. It was our honour to have Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose SK Lee (sixth left, bottom photo), as our honourable guest of the night.

The dinner was also attended by Commissioner Tong (fifth left), CESSOM President; Deputy Commissioner Lawrence Wong (third left); the now retired Assistant Commissioner William Chow (second left), the outgoing Chairman; Head of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau Ben Leung (first left), the new Chairman; heads of other disciplinary forces and other dignitaries.

Apart from singing performance and dancing session, there was also lucky draw in which everyone was excited. In joy and laughter, all enjoyed the evening.